THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON SUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRI BUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is a voluntary effort by a consumer Organisation' and the Government is not involved in it.

(c) The Central Government has no feedback on this aspect. The Institute has reported that it is interacting with the industry and trade organisations.

(d) and (e) According to the information sent by the said Institute, it conducted two courses, namely, one certificate course and one refresher course on consumer protection and one batch of 55 candidates completed the courses. From July 1994, the Institute proposes to run 2 courses viz. one year post graduate diploma in consumer education and 4 months orientation course in consumer protection.

Rise in Wholesale Price Index

5243. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 635 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1994; and state :

(a) whether th© wholesale prices of over 250 commodities including a large number of food articles have risen substantially and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the wholesale price index at the end of March, 1994 as against the correspond-in period in 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CON-SUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRI-BUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Of the total commodities in the Wholesale Price Index, 170 commodities have recorded an inflation rate above 10 per cent as 26-3-1994.

(b) The percentage rise in Wholesale price index for all commodities as on 26th March, 1995 was 10.2% as against *1%* in the corresponding period of last year.

Reduction Sale of Imported Palfolein OH

5244. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALA RAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large quanti-ies of imported Palmolein oil were disposed of at reduced prices recently;

(b) it so, the details and reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that the quality of this imported oil was getting deteriorated as the shelf-life of the oil expires in April 1994; and

(d) if so, whether the Stock was tested for fitness for human consumption before disposing of at reduced prices and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON SUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRI BUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN SHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dos not arise.

(c) The shelf-life of RBD palmolein kept loose (i.e. in bulk tanks) is generally